

Cohasset Churches



St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's Parish (Episcopal), South Main Street 383-1083. The Rev. Richard Muir. Sunday services at 8 and 10 a.m. Nursery care provided for 10 a.m. service.

St. Anthony's

St. Anthony's Church, Summer and South Main Streets. 383-0219. The Rev. John J. Keohane, pastor; the Rev. Charles R. McKenny, S.J., associate. Saturday mass at 5 p.m. Sunday masses at 7, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Daily mass at 7 a.m., Saturday at 8 a.m. Sacrament of penance Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m.

Congregational

Second Congregational Church in Cohasset (United Church of Christ), 43 Highland Ave. 383-0345. The Rev. John Benbow. Sunday services at 10 a.m. Church School at 10 a.m. Nursery and child care provided.

First Parish

First Parish Church in Cohasset (Unitarian-Universalist), 23 North Main St. 383-1100. The Rev. Edward Atkinson. Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in the meeting house on the Common. Church School at 10:15 a.m. in the parish house across the street.

Community

South Shore Christian Community (Non Denominational), 7 Depot Court. 383-6683. Communion services 6:15 a.m. Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. Sat. and Sun. Counselling available by appointment. Public classes Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

United

Beechwood Congregational United Church of Christ, Church Street, 383-0808. Rev. Robert Campbell. Sunday services 10:45 a.m. Nursery care provided. Church school 9:30 a.m.

Chowder Lunch At Beechwood

The Beechwood Congregational Church, Church Street, will hold a fish chowder luncheon Friday, Feb. 2, from 11:30-1.

The public is welcome. Tickets are available at the door and one is good for all you can eat.

The Blood Donor Adventure

By Judith Epstein

I used to be incredulous at the idea of giving blood. That people actually allowed needles to get stuck in their arms and be sapped of their most precious bodily fluid was beyond me. And for free?

One day last summer I had escaped from work early and was headed down Kent Street bound for Peggotty Beach and the merciful coolness of the ocean. I was just passing St. Mary's Rectory when a man approached me on the street.

"Have you given blood today?" he asked. No, of course I hadn't, and I was just on my way to the beach, thank you. Well, the man started waving his 'Give Blood' bumper sticker and said things like, if a man of my age can give blood why can't a strapping young girl like you give, too, and so on.

I was shamed into it. I walked inside the Rectory. The place was steaming from bustling activity in the hot July air. I can't go through with this, I thought, I'll faint dead away. Furthermore, I wasn't decent — I wore only a bikini with a towel wrapped around my waist.

That first donation is now a little hazy in my memory. I remember that a very nice woman greeted me and at my mention of the words "first time" she took extra pains to see that I would survive the ordeal. I did. It was kind of fun, actually. And at the end of it all, a photographer snapped his shutter as a volunteer attached a donor's pin to the strap of my bathing suit.

In subsequent trips to blood mobiles, initial nervousness ebbed, and I paid more attention to the donating procedures. Last week in Cohasset I descended on the volunteers and Red Cross personnel working at the bloodmobile visiting the Unitarian Parish House. I decided that this time, in exchange for my donation, the workers would be asked to explain just what they were doing every step of the way.

First of all, a recruiting program has been going on in the town prior to the bloodmobile's arrival. In Cohasset, most of the appointments for donations are made over the telephone.

In Scituate, I have received postcards with a time reserved for my donation. Whatever the method used, an estimated

number of pints to be received is reported to the regional Red Cross blood center — ours is located at 814 Huntington Avenue in Brookline — and professional staff is sent according to demand at the donor site.

On arrival at the Unitarian Parish House, I was met by Alfred Odermatt, the chapter's Publicity Chairman, who introduced me to everybody. At the reception desk Jill O'Donnell and Roella Hobbs co-chairmen of the drive, logged in donors according to their appointment or walk-in times on a chart made up for every half hour.

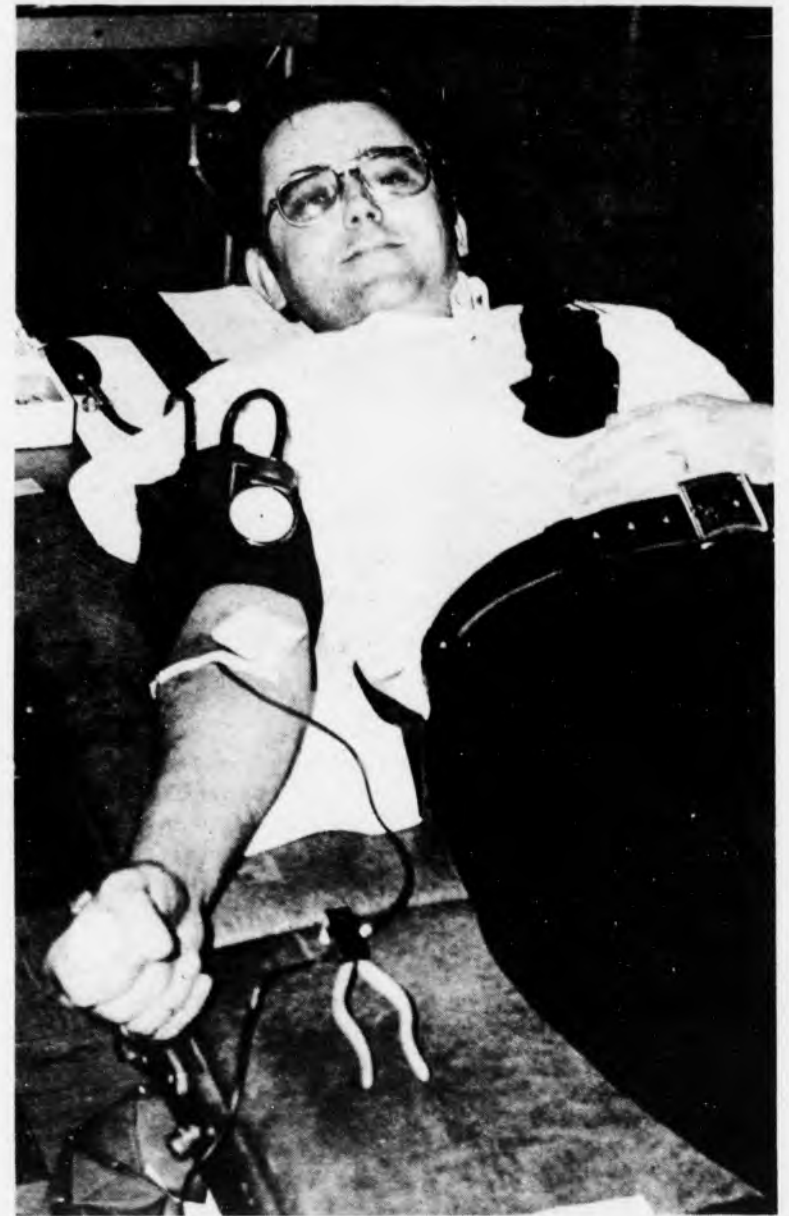
Volunteers Ann Churchill, Kathleen England and Mary Howley recorded the preliminary statistics needed for each donor — name, address and Social Security number. A donation may be credited to a group or organization so that should a need arise, say, at your place of business, blood would be available. However, Mrs. Churchill noted that Cohasset's chapter will cover anybody's blood needs.

Temperature taking is the next step. Gerta Cahill was in charge of the electric thermometer which records a person's temperature via a little screen. If the temperature is within normal range, the person is ushered on to a registered nurse where blood pressure and pulse are taken, hemoglobin is tested, and a brief medical history is recorded.

Here, Red Cross head nurse Margaret Piper explained that the nurses taking this information, although most were volunteers, are specially trained to take histories to function all round on mobile units. Blood pressure is taken via the regular cuff method; hemoglobin is tested by taking a few drops of blood from a pricked ear lobe (it doesn't hurt at all) and placing it in a container with a solution which allows blood with sufficient iron to drop to the bottom.

A rash of questions are asked, mainly to ascertain whether a person has or has had a communicable disease which could contaminate the blood and make it unsuitable for donating. Also, if blood has been given in the past, the nurse will ask to see the donor card which gives blood type and a record of previous donations.

A volunteer then brings the



BEYOND DUTY call. Police Sergeant John Rhodes donates blood in drive for urgently needed supplies.

donor to the donating table, where he lies down and a Red Cross nurse readies his arm for the venipuncture. The nurse examines the inside of the arm for a good vein for insertion of the needle which will draw the blood. This procedure is really not as dramatic as it sounds, and pain from the venipuncture is momentary and minimal.

In about six to eight minutes a pint of blood will flow into a plastic container that also holds about two ounces of an anti-coagulant - preservative solution. When it and two test tubes attached to the plastic pouch are full, the

tubing through which the flow flowed is clamped off, the needle is removed, and the arm is held above the head for a few minutes at venipuncture site.

When the arm has stopped bleeding, the donor may sit up slowly. The circulatory system may need some time to fully adjust to the loss of fluids and slight dizziness or light-headedness may result. However, in most cases, donors proceed to the canteen where they have something to eat and drink or at least relax for 15 minutes.

The blood is immediately

[turn to page 14]

Obituaries

Dorothy Sweeney

A memorial service was held Tuesday at the Sparrell Funeral Home for Mrs. Dorothy Sweeney, 72, of 15 James Lane, who died Sunday at South Shore Hospital after a long illness.

The Rev. Michael Gruel of Christ Lutheran Church of Scituate officiated. Burial was private.

Mrs. Sweeney was born in New York City and lived in

Cohasset many years. She belonged to the Cohasset Senior Citizens.

Wife of the late Capt. Edward Sweeney Sr. (USN Ret.), she leaves two sons, Edward Jr. and Robert, both of Cohasset; and three grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Diabetes Society of Greater Boston, 1330 Beacon St., Boston.



TESTING — Mariner reporter Judith Epstein has her blood pressure checked prior to giving blood. (Greg Derr photos)